Saskatchewan Police Commission

Annual Report for 2014-15

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Government of Saskatchewan

Table of Contents

Letters of Transmittal 1

Saskatchewan Police Commission 2

- Appointed Members 2
- Staff 2
- Saskatchewan Police College Staff 2
- Role of the Commission 2

Police Services 3

- List of Cities, Towns and Villages Policed by Municipal Police (Actual Establishment) 3
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police 4
- Use of Firearms by Municipal Police 4
- Use of Firearms by Royal Canadian Mounted Police (in Saskatchewan) 5
- Use of Conducted Energy weapons by Municipal Police 6

Activities of the Commission 8

- Commission Budgets 8
- Meetings 9
- Visits 9
- Appeals to the Commission 9
- Audits 9

Saskatchewan Police College 10

- Police Training 10
- Recruit Training 10
- In-Service Training 11
- Course and Candidate Summary 12

This annual report is also available in electronic format from the Ministry's website at www.saskatchewan.ca.

Letters of Transmittal

The Honourable
Christine Tell
Minister Responsible for
Corrections and Policing

Her Honour, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield,
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

Pursuant to section 15 of *The Police Act, 1990*, the undersigned is pleased to present the Saskatchewan Police Commission Annual Report for the period of April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

Christine Tell
Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Paul H.A. Korpan, Q.C.
Chairperson

Honourable Christine Tell
Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Dear Madam:

Pursuant to section 15 of *The Police Act, 1990*, the undersigned is pleased to present the Saskatchewan Police Commission Annual Report for the period of April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

Paul H.A. Korpan, Q.C.
Chairperson

Saskatchewan Police Commission

Appointed Members

- Paul H.A. Korpan, Q.C. – Chair
- Catherine A. Sloan – Vice-Chair
- Patricia Crowe – Member
- Fredrick Matheson – Member
- Steve Connelly – Member
- Treena Sikora – Member
- Neil Robertson – Member

Saskatchewan Police Commission - Staff

- Rick Peach – Executive Director
- Murray Roe – Policy, Standards and Compliance Officer
- Susan Wilson-Blundell – Admin Assistant

Saskatchewan Police College - Staff

- Mitch Crumley – Acting Director
- Lonnie Dynna – Assistant Director
- Denis Eberle – In-service Training Officer
- Cst. Lori Alexander – Recruit Training Officer
- Marnie McMillan – Instructional Designer
- Lil Olynyk – Executive Assistant
- Kathy Munro – Executive Assistant

Role of the Commission

The primary function of the Saskatchewan Police Commission as outlined in *The Police Act, 1990*, section 19, is to promote adequate and effective policing throughout the province and the preservation of peace, prevention of crime, efficiency of police services and the improvement of police relationships with Saskatchewan communities.

Section 12 authorizes the Commission to make regulations on various matters that will upgrade police services generally through training and standardization.

The Commission may conduct audits and reviews as well as provide information to Boards of Police Commissioners.

The Commission, as an appellate body, may review the suspension from duty of a police member or chief of police. The Commission also may hear appeals from a decision of a hearing officer.

Commission Office

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University of Regina
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Regina SK S4S 0A2
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Government of Saskatchewan

Police Services

List of Cities, Towns and Villages Policed by Municipal Police (Actual Establishment)

The municipal and First Nations police services operating within the scope of *The Police Act, 1990*, as of March 31, 2015, are:

Cities	Sworn Officers Authorized	Sworn Officers Actual	Population[1]	Police Ratio Population
Regina	388	389	193,100	1/496.4
Saskatoon	449	459	222,189	1/484.1
Moose Jaw	54	53	33,274	1/627.8
Prince Albert	92	91	35,129	1/386
Estevan	26	25	11,054	1/442.16
Weyburn	20	18	10,484	1/582.4

Towns & Villages	Sworn Officers Authorized	Sworn Officers Actual	Population[1]	Police Ratio Population
Caronport	1	1	1,068	1/1068
Dalmeny	3	3	1,702	1/567
Luseland	1	1	566	1/566

Rural Municipalities	Sworn Officers Authorized	Sworn Officers Actual	Population[1]	Police Ratio Population
Corman Park #334	6	6	8,354	1/1,392.3
Vanscoy #345	1	1	2,714	1/2,714
Wilton #472	1	1	1,494	1/1,494

First Nations	Sworn Officers Authorized	Sworn Officers Actual	Population[1]	Police Ratio Population
File Hills First Nation	9	9[2]	1,762	1/195.8

* Sworn Officers does not include Special Constables

[1] Population totals are derived from 2011 Census data.

[2] Includes two RCMP officers on secondment to File Hills First Nations Police Service.

All other cities, towns and villages in the province with a population over 500 are policed by contract with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

On January 1, 1999, the Governrnent of Saskatchewan implemented a new RCMP Police Cost Redistribution Program for communities less than 5,000 in population using RCMP services. The plan was recommended to Government by a task force consisting of municipal and urban officials from the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association and a representative from Saskatchewan Justice.

Municipalities participating in the program pay a per capita fee for policing services received from the RCMP. In 2012 the regulations were amended to implement an annual increase to the fee of eight per cent (8%) in that and each subsequent fiscal year. In 2014-2015, the rates charged to urban and rural communities were $66.07 per capita for communities with detachments and $40.88 per capita for communities without detachments and all rural municipalities.

The province recovered approximately $17 million in revenue through this program, now referred to as the RCMP Rural Policing Program, in 2014-2015.

Pursuant to *The Police Act, 1990*, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police may be contracted through a Municipal Police Service Agreement (MPSA) between the municipality and the federal government to provide municipal policing to municipalities with a population less than 20,000 or to municipalities which elect to continue existing RCMP policing upon reaching a population of 20,000.

In Saskatchewan, the following eight cities have MPSAs contracting services from the RCMP to provide municipal policing:

- Swift Current
- Yorkton
- North Battleford
- Meadow Lake
- Melfort
- Humboldt
- Martensville
- Warman

Use of Firearms by Municipal Police

During Course of Duty - Calendar Year 2014

Regina Police Service

In one incident, a member discharged three rounds from his service pistol at a pit bull which repeatedly attached members endeavouring to execute an arrest warrant. It is unknown whether the dog was injured or struck by any of the rounds as it fled the scene and could not subsequently be located to determine its condition. The police service advised the Regina Humane Society and continued efforts to find the dog; however, it was not located. The member received a minor puncture wound to his right foot as a result of having been bitten.

Saskatoon Police Service

In twelve separate incidents, 10 involving rifles, one involving a shotgun and one involving a handgun, members discharged firearms to destroy animals. In a thirteenth incident, a handgun was discharged by a member during an incident where a vehicle was operated as a weapon against police. A fourteenth incident involved an accidental discharge from a handgun.

Prince Albert Police Service

In three separate incidents, suspects discharged firearms, two handguns and one rifle, resulting in seven charges being laid against three people. Two people were injured as a result. There were no incidents involving the discharge of a firearm by police.

Moose Jaw Police Service

In three separate incidents, four members fired eight rounds, four from service pistols and four from shotguns, to euthanize three injured deer.

Corman Park Police Service

In nine separate incidents of destruction of injured animals, a total of 46 rounds, 41 from handguns and five from shotguns, were fired by nine members.

Weyburn Police Service

In one incident, a single round was fired from a service handgun to destroy an injured animal.

Use of Firearms by Royal Canadian Mounted Police (in Saskatchewan)

During Course of Duty - Calendar Year 2014

There were a total of six incidents involving firearms.

Two incidents, involving one member on each occasion, were accidental discharges. Each resulted in the discharge of a single round from a service pistol. There were no injuries.

In the third incident, following an unsuccessful vehicle stop of a vehicle being driven by an individual subject to a Canada wide arrest warrant, a roadblock was established. As the subject in question approached the roadblock at an increasing rate of speed one member, fearing for his safety and that of other members, discharged one round from a shotgun at the subject vehicle.

In the fourth incident, an RCMP member fired five rounds from a service pistol at a dog which attacked a police dog during a warrant execution, injuring the attacking dog. The dog was subsequently euthanized.

In the fifth incident, members were on the sides of the road dealing with a suspect when one of the members and the suspect were struck by a vehicle. Another member attempted to stop the vehicle, which refused to stop. One member discharged one round from a service pistol.

In the sixth incident, members responded to a disturbance call. When members arrived, the male subject pulled a gun from his car and pointed it at the responding members. One member discharged one round from his service pistol, striking the subject.

Use of Conducted Energy Weapons by Municipal Police

During Course of Duty - Calendar Year 2014

Regina Police Service

Nine incidents during which conducted energy weapons (CEWs) were discharged were reported to the Commission.

In the first incident, a person was actively engaged in self harm with an edged weapon. When de-escalation efforts failed to end the threat, a CEW was discharged, and the subject was taken into custody without incident.

In the second incident, police responded to a robbery during which pepper spray was used by the subjects on the victim and another person. During the arrest of one of the subjects, a CEW was discharged and the subject was taken into custody.

In the third incident, an impaired driver who had been involved in a vehicle collision attempted to flee police in his vehicle. Despite repeated warnings and attempts by the officers at the scene to get the subject to exit his vehicle, he refused and continued to attempt flight. A CEW was discharged to stop the threat, and the subject was taken into custody.

In the fourth incident, police responded to a call of an intoxicated male subject in the street in a residential neighbourhood causing a disturbance by yelling and hitting vehicles. The report indicated that there was blood on his hands and face. A second male advised that there was a wounded person inside the house the subject had come from. The subject, on two occasions, came toward the members rapidly and aggressively. One member identified himself and instructed the subject to stop several times; however, the subject continued to come at the members. A CEW was successfully deployed to end the threat and gain control of the subject on the second occasion he advanced on the members. The subject was transported to hospital by EMS for medical assessment. The subject was charged with Aggravated Assault, Breach of Recognizance and Breach of Probation.

In the fifth incident, police were engaged in a traffic stop when a male occupant, who was in breach of a recognizance, fled on foot after arrest. A member pursued the subject and caught up to him on five occasions. Each time a physical altercation was initiated by the subject, who broke contact and fled. On the third such occasion, after the subject tried to grab the members holstered CEW unsuccessfully and again fled, the member ordered him to stop. The subject turned back to face the member, reaching under his shirt. The member, fearing he was reaching for a weapon, drew her CEW to the low ready position and warned the subject if he did not show his hands, she would deploy the instrument. The subject refused to do so, and the member discharged the CEW; however, the probes did not contact the subject as he moved out of the line of fire as he was again fleeing the scene. A short time after, the member terminated pursuit due to exhaustion and discovered that the subject had taken her spare CEW cartridge and thrown it away. A canine unit initiated a track, located the subject and arrested him. The subject was charged with Breach of Recognizance, Resisting Arrest, Assaulting a Police Officer, and Disarming a Police Officer.

In the sixth incident, members observed a vehicle fail to stop at a stop sign and, when police activated the police vehicle emergency equipment to affect a traffic stop, the subject accelerated and evaded police. The subject was located a short time later as a result of a canine track and was challenged by police. The subject reached down and grabbed something from the ground, lowered his head and charged at the officers. He was challenged again, but refused to stop and continued to rapidly close the distance. One officer discharged a CEW, but the subject changed his direction and the probes missed the subject. The subject was tracked by an approaching canine unit and taken into custody.

In the seventh incident, police attended a call of a domestic disturbance. The male subject became confrontational and aggressive with the officers, displaying both physical and verbal threat cues which led the officers to believe that a physical confrontation was imminent. One officer discharged

OC spray at the subject, who then charged the officer and a physical struggle ensued. The subject successfully gained position on top of the officer and attempted to access the weapons on his duty belt. Attempts by the second officer to pull the subject off were unsuccessful, at which point the second officer discharged a CEW to end the threat. Control of the subject was then gained and emergency medical services were called to assess the subject. When EMS attended, the subject refused medical service.

In the eighth incident, members attended to a noise complaint. Although they knocked on the door numerous times in an effort to speak to the occupant, he refused to come out of the suite and speak to them, yelling obscenities at them from inside the suite. After some time with the members continuing to knock on the door the noise ceased. Seconds later the male subject exited the suite rapidly, armed with a butcher knife and a box cutter. He was waving both weapons at the members and refused to drop them in response to verbal commands. Fearing escalation and the risk posed by the armed subject, the members deployed a CEW to end the threat, disarming him and taking him into custody. Emergency medical services were called to attend and assess the subject; however, upon their arrival, he refused medical service. He was transported to hospital for assessment.

In the ninth incident, a member accidentally discharged a CEW within the confines of a safe loading station in the police office, while conducting a start of shift function test. No injuries or damage resulted, and the member was counseled on the safe use of the CEW.

Prince Albert Police Service

Two incidents during which CEWs were discharged were reported to the Commission.

In the first incident, police were called to a domestic dispute. The subject became combative with police and, when repeated attempts to de-escalate the situation and gain control of the subject were unsuccessful, a CEW was discharged, and the subject was taken into custody.

In the second incident, police responded to a disturbance call and found a person in a highly emotional state threatening self harm with a knife. When de-escalation attempts were unsuccessful, a CEW was discharged to end the threat and gain control of the subject to prevent injury.

Saskatoon Police Service

Seven incidents during which CEWs were discharged were reported to the Commission.

In four incidents police responded to situations involving persons threatening or attempting to harm themselves. In all three incidents de-escalation attempts were unsuccessful. A CEW was discharged in each incident, and the subject was taken into custody.

In the fifth incident, police responded to a report of a subject armed with a knife. Upon arriving at the scene, the subject immediately confronted the officers. A CEW was discharged to end the threat when the subject advanced on the responding officers; however, the subject escaped and fled in a vehicle. The subject was followed and apprehended.

In the sixth incident, members responded to a residence in which a male subject, armed with firearms and threatening harm, had barricaded the door and was holding hostages. Despite lengthy negotiations with the subject, police were unable to resolve the situation and, because of the presence of firearms, the threats of harm and the risk to the hostages, a CEW was deployed when negotiations broke down. The subject was then taken into custody without harm to the subject or others.

In the seventh incident, two members responded to a complaint at a convenience store where they observed the male subject entering a licensed establishment across the street. They followed the subject and a struggle ensued during which one of the members was assaulted. The subject attempted to disarm one of the members. The other member deployed a CEW to end the threat and gain control of the subject, who was arrested and transported by ambulance to hospital for medical examination and clearance. The subject was charged with Assaulting a Police Officer, Attempting to Disarm a Police Officer, Possession of a Controlled Substance and three counts of Breach of Undertaking.

Activities of the Commission

Commission Budgets

Fiscal Year	Commission Administration	Sask. Police College	Total
2014/15	$203,000.00	$1,268,000.00	$1,471,000.00
2013/14	$202,000.00	$1,257,000.00	$1,459,000.00
2012/13	$265,000.00	$1,162,000.00	$1,427,000.00
2011/12	$50,000.00	$1,158,000.00	$1,208,000.00
2010/11	$50,000.00	$1,150,000.00	$1,200,000.00
2009/10	$90,000.00	$1,115,000.00	$1,205,000.00
2008/09	$116,658.00	$1,055,772.00	$1,172,430.00
2007/08	$158,621.00	$807,189.00	$965,810.00
2006/07	$222,489.00	$662,511.00	$885,000.00
2005/06	$172,087.17	$635,998.08	$808,085.25
2004/05	$106,718.02	$615,618.74	$722,336.76
2003/04	$85,336.37	$625,214.94	$710,551.31
2002/03	$162,339.95	$598,620.89	$760,960.84
2001/02	$187,763.72	$538,304.58	$726,068.30
2000/01	$184,894.00	$533,106.00	$718,000.00
1999/00	$182,952.00	$431,048.00	$614,000.00
1998/99	$182,072.00	$511,128.00*	$693,200.00
1997/98	$182,072.00	$417,928.00	$600,000.00
1996/97	$182,072.00	$417,928.00	$598,000.00
1995/96	$181,890.00	$414,110.00	$596,000.00
1994/95	$190,890.00	$414,110.00	$605,000.00
1993/94	$182,890.00	$414,110.00	$597,000.00
1992/93	$279,060.00	$318,340.00	$597,400.00

* Includes Special Warrant funding for recruit training.

The Commission continues to place emphasis on training for new police recruits and in-service officers throughout their careers. It also emphasizes training on board governance for members of local Boards of Police Commissioners. To this end, the Saskatchewan Police College continues to deliver training at the highest level. The Commission is mandated through legislation to operate the Saskatchewan Police College. In discharging its mandate, the Commission is responsible for promoting efficiency and improving police relations in the community, and regularly consults with municipal Boards of Police Commissioners, the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police (SACP) and the Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers. The Commission places considerable emphasis on race relations and cross-cultural training to respond to the changing demographics of Saskatchewan's population, which require that police services ensure their membership is representative of the general population they police.

The challenge is to have a greater representation of Aboriginal police officers at all levels and roles in policing in Saskatchewan. The Commission is aware of and supports work being done by the Ministry of Justice to develop strategies to recruit and retain Aboriginal police officers in the province.

The Commission continues its focus on public complaints and matters of internal discipline through monitoring of complaints, hearing appeals to the Commission, and conducting reviews of requests to extend section 23(1) limitation periods set out in *The Municipal Police Discipline Regulations, 1991*.

The Commission continues to be actively engaged in providing oversight to municipal policing. With the continuing conduct of policy compliance audits of local police service policies, the review of periodic reporting by police services and monitoring for trends in regard to use of force, internal discipline, discharge of firearms and personnel numbers, the Commission is achieving its goal of effectively monitoring municipal police within Saskatchewan communities.

Meetings

In 2014-2015 the Saskatchewan Police Commission held four meetings, one in person and three by teleconference, and on eight additional occasions addressed eight issues of a pressing nature by email communication.

Visits

The Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Police Commission and the Director of the Saskatchewan Police College continue to visit with police services and non-government agencies around the province. Ongoing liaison with municipal Boards of Police Commissioners, the SACP, the Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers, members of the public and other federal and provincial colleagues enables the Commission to be aware of emerging issues, trends and challenges of contemporary policing.

Appeals to the Commission

No appeals came before the Commission in 2014-15. One decision on an appeal previously heard by the Commission remains reserved and that decision will be forthcoming in early 2015-16.

Audits

During 2014-15, the Commission conducted a comprehensive audit of defensive tactics training delivered by the Saskatchewan Police College to ensure training for police officers in the province continues to be aligned with best practices in police training and police use of force.

The Commission also commenced audits of defensive tactics recertification training delivered to their members by the six largest police services in Saskatchewan. Those audits are currently ongoing and will be concluded in the fall of 2015.

Saskatchewan Police College

Police Training

The Saskatchewan Police College, with offices and classrooms located at the University of Regina, is under the authority and control of the Saskatchewan Police Commission by virtue of *The Police Act, 1990*.

The mission of the Saskatchewan Police College is to collaborate with Saskatchewan municipal and First Nations police agencies and their membership to provide:

- Basic recruit training;
- Ongoing in-service training;
- Training regarding specialized investigative techniques; and
- Ongoing evaluation of current trends and technologies which impact police responses.

The Saskatchewan Police College Training Advisory Committee, consisting of Chiefs of Police and/or Deputy Chiefs of the contributing police services, has provided on-going advice to the Police College over the past year.

During the 2014-15 training year, 605 candidates attended the Police College for training.

Recruit Training

Recruit Training is a 20 week program for candidates hired independently from Saskatchewan municipal and First Nations police agencies. The program is designed to help course candidates develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for successful performance of general policing duties. The Recruit Training Program is followed by four to six months of field training at the recruit's home agency with a field training officer. Most police services also provide one to two weeks of selective training pertinent to their agencies when the recruits graduate from the College.

Recruit Training Class #68 was held from January 13, 2014 to May 30, 2014, with an enrollment of 18 police officers: five from Saskatoon Police Service, eight from Regina Police Service, three from Prince Albert Police Service, one from Weyburn Police Service and one from Moose Jaw Police Service.

Recruit Training Class #69 was held from August 5, 2014 to December 19, 2014, with an enrollment of 22 police officers: ten from Saskatoon Police Service, eight from Regina Police Service, one from Estevan Police Service, one from Prince Albert Police Service, one from File Hills First Nations Police Service, and one from Altona Police Service (Manitoba).

The key areas of focus within the Police Recruit Training Program for Classes #68 and #69 were:

- Criminal Law Series (includes Criminal Code, federal statutes, provincial statutes and Restorative Justice) – 103 hours
- Wellness Series – 22 hours
- Introduction to Policing – 25 hours
- Diversity Awareness – 26 hours
- Communication Skills - 22 hours
- Professionalism, Ethics and Integrity – 12 hours
- Traffic Control and Enforcement – 15 hours
- Introduction to Investigations – 37 hours
- Mental Health Series – 21 hours
- Interpersonal Violence and Abuse – 22 hours
- High Risk Investigations – 40 hours
- Defensive Tactics – 81 hours (includes fitness sessions, Day 2 POPAT, Control Tactics; classroom theory sessions and Grad rehearsal sessions)
- Emergency Vehicle Operator Course – 36 hours
- Firearms – 77 hours (includes classroom theory, pistol training and shotgun training)
- Public and Officer Safety Training – 60 hours
- Drill - 30 hours (includes drill, grad rehearsal sessions and transportation between facilities time)

Total Program – 629 hours

In-Service Training

Courses are offered for all levels of personnel from recruit training to management development. In 2014-2015 a total of 565 candidates attended in-service training courses.

The following courses are regularly offered: Introduction to Management, Senior Constable Development, Operational Investigators, Cultural Relations, Effective Presentations, Media Relations, and in conjunction with partnering organizations, the Treaty Four Citizens Police Academy.

Specialized courses offered were: Advanced Interviewing and Interrogation, Search Warrant Writers, Field Training Officers, Defensive Tactics Instructor, Conducted Energy Weapons Instructor Training, Firearms Instructors, Firearms Instructor Re-certification, Introduction to Investigative File Management, Service Pistol Armourers, Impaired Driving and the Defensive Tactics Instructors and Firearms Instructors Seminars.

To better meet our client needs, over the 2014-15 year the Police College developed and delivered two courses we have never offered before: the Service Pistol Armourers course, and the Impaired Driving Workshops. The Service Pistol Armourers Course was intended to assist Firearms instructors who are armourers for their agencies to develop the necessary knowledge and skills to work with issued firearms. The Impaired Driving Workshops were intended to develop the understanding and skills of police officers in investigating impaired, care or control and exceed .08 offences.

Additionally, the *Field Training Manual* and the *Field Training Officer Course* were revised to align with changes in recruit training and to reflect a greater connection between College training and the knowledge and skills required of patrol officers. In addition, a new Field Training Officer Guidebook outlines minimum guidelines to support a scaled attainment of knowledge and skills as the recruit works towards becoming a competent police officer capable of working independently in a safe, skillful, motivated, productive, and professional manner.

2014-15 Course and Candidate Summary

Course	Date	Number of Candidates
Recruit Class #68	Jan 13 - May 30	18
Operational Investigators #57	Mar 31 - April 11	22
Drug Investigation #32	April 14 – 16	25
Field Training Officers Course #19	April 28 – 30	20
Treaty Four Citizens Police Academy #10	May 26 - June 6	5
Defensive Tactics Instructors Course #5	June 2 – 13	32
Recruit Class #69	Aug 5 - Dec 19	22
Firearms Instructors Recert Course #32	Sept 3 – 4	12
Senior Constables Development Course #59	Sept 8 – 12	28
Advanced Interview & Inter. Tech Course #4	Sept 15 – 19	20
Effective Presentations Course #54	Oct 6 - 9	16
Media Relations Course #16	Oct 15 – 16	17
Intro to Investigative File Management #9	Oct 20 – 24	25
Search Warrant Writers Course #11	Nov 3 – 7	25
Field Training Officers Course #20	Nov 17 – 19	24
Operational Investigators Course #58	Dec 1 – 12	24
Impaired Driving Seminar 1	Nov 14	30
Impaired Driving Seminar 2	Nov 28	27
Search Warrant Writers Course #12	Jan 5 – 9	25
Firearms Seminar #7	Jan 12	20
Intro to Management #54	Jan 19 – 23	30
Firearms Recert #33	Jan 28 – 29	12
SKPC Armourers Course #3	Jan 30	10
CEW Instructors Course #4	Feb 5	12
Firearms Instructors Course #19	Feb 9 – 13	21
Operational Investigators Course #59	Feb 23 - Mar 6	23
Defensive Tactics Seminar #2	Mar 7	15
Senior Constables Development Course #60	Mar 16 – 20	29
Effective Presentations Course #55	Mar 23 – 26	16
Total Candidates Trained		**605**